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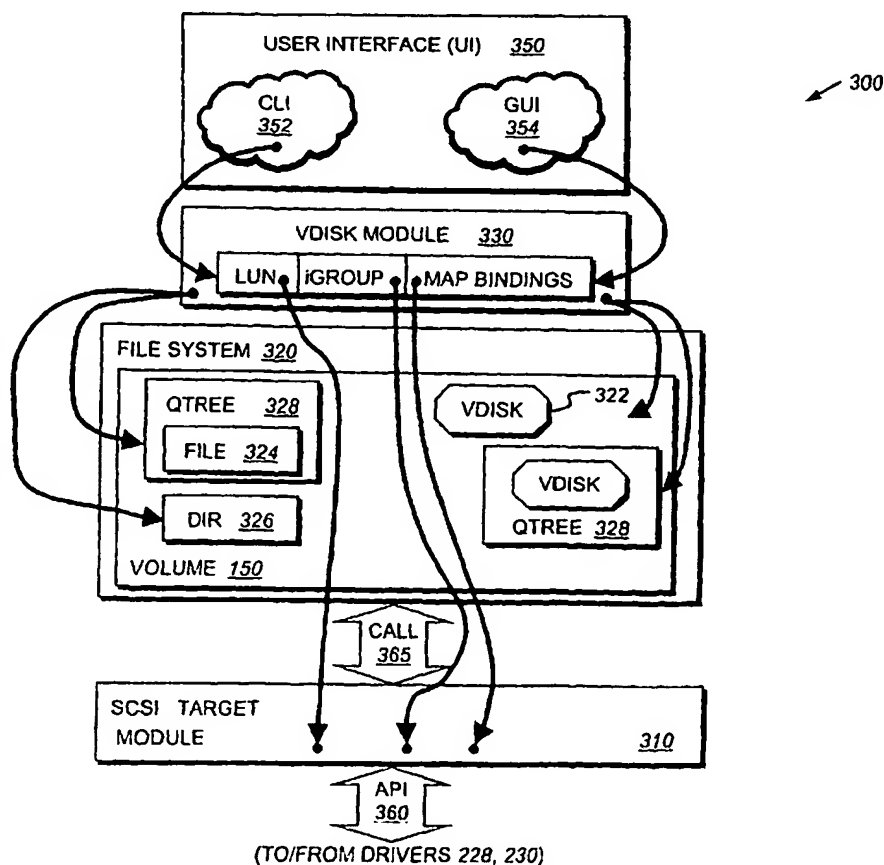
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(54) Title: MULTI-PROTOCOL STORAGE APPLIANCE THAT PROVIDES INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR FILE AND BLOCK ACCESS PROTOCOLS



(57) Abstract: A multi-protocol storage appliance serves file and block protocol access to information stored on storage devices in an integrated manner for both network attached storage (NAS) and storage area network (SAN) deployments. A storage operating system of the appliance implements a file system (320) that cooperates with novel virtualization modules to provide a virtualization system (300) that "virtualizes" the storage space provided by the devices. The file system provides volume management capabilities for use in block-based access to the information stored on the devices. The virtualization system (300) allows the file system to logically organize the information as named file (324), directory (326) and virtual disk storage objects (322, 328) to thereby provide an integrated NAS and SAN appliance approach to storage by enabling file based access to the files and directories while further enabling block-based access to the virtual disks.

WO 2004/015521 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/23597

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 12/08, 15/16
US CL : 709/211, 245; 711/203

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 709/208, 211, 217, 219, 230, 245; 711/117, 147, 148, 202, 203

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E	US 6,606,690 B2 (PADOVANO) 12 AUGUST 2003 Abstract, Column 2, Lines 15-34, Column 3, Lines 1-39, Column 5, Lines 1-54, Column 9, Lines 38-48, Column 10, Lines 1-32, Column 22, Lines 47-62	1-27
A	CALLAGHAN, B. "NFS Version 3 Protocol Specification", Request for Comments (RFC) 1813, June 1995	1-27
A	US 6,185,655 B1 (PEPING) 06 FEBRUARY 2001 Entire document	1-27
A, P	LU, Y. "Performance Study of iSCSI-Based Storage Subsystems", IEEE Communications Magazine, pp. 76-82, August 2003	1-27

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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